JW, PH,

Dear Howard, 7/24/72

Lil just asked me to check the Burkley middle initial because of a typo in PM. When I went to my file it was completely empty! Only the folder is there. I am aware that I can have mislaid or misfiled it, but I also want to ask you if you recall where they were when last you saw the papers now so involved.

Did either of us show them to Ross?

That would have been the most recent occasion. Rather, could have.

The earlier copies are also missing, which makes me think it less likely that a single part of the file along got misfiled.

I'll send you today's letter from Jerry and my response. I don't know if he sent you his. If he did and you have no need for my copy, I'll put the dupe in the foundations folder so that if any of it turns up mssing in the future, the explanation will be clear.

I'm not going to spend all this time on his verbal drek again. But I do really think he is sick and needs help. Such people never conceive it possible and regard the rest of the world as wrong.

But at least he now says he will get it, if only because he is so courteous.

Note his built-in excuse for not returning my stuff. I gave him POST MORTEM as an example and as a test. He has to have all the copies of that he made in a single folder the return of which could be simple. And NOTE his refusal to respond on any redistribution of anything. It would have been easy, were it the case, for him to have said he didn't do it.

He seems constitutionally unable to be anything but a slob when he handles things. I had occasion to go to my "reviews" files yesterday to get an extra copy for which I'd been asked and even that he had all messed up, simply returning folders to the wrong place. I don't know if I straightened them all out of not, not having had any occasion to look at them for years. As you know, this interested him. So, he made a needless mess.

Best,

Later 7/24/72 Those missing Burkley files bothered me much. I got to thinking how could someone not knowing that to most would be my illogical way of filing them have put them away. Having doped this out I found one part that I'd had in a separate folder. The other, earlier part I've still not located. There is, of course, always the possibility that with the chaos that prevails, I may have put those pages somewhere I don't now remember, but if I did it was long ago, for I've been gradually clearing off the top of the cabinets.

Jim called to say he can't come tomorrow but will Thursday instead. I asked if there is anything new on the Weckt situation and he says not that he's heard of.

While I'm on this unpleasantness and to make a record for my own files, I've had no answer, comment, complaint, offer, request or single piece of paper and no word, direct or indirect, from Bud or anyone speaking for him, in response to my protest at his confusing his legal life with the abortion he things gives him ownership of the subject. Jim has not returned the original of the lost he recognized was from my Archives files and it is two years plus since Bud agreed to undo what he could of what he'd promised not to do.

I guess this is just that kind of subject, one on which otherwise honest and decent people are neither.

Had a letter from a young friend you don't know. He sent a clipping from a New Orleans paper of a Garrison interview on a Hattiesburg, Miss., TV station: Wallace was shot by a scoped shooter from the distance while Brener said "the noise" - just like Sirhan!

You have made no comment on it, but haven't you tumbled to the fact that Cyril's demand for the slides, etc., under the contract is a) for what is not covered by the contract annd b) not now or ever in Archives' possession. Those with whom he is counselling sure know the public record. Cyril has the contract. As you know, he asked me for it instead of the Archives and I did send it.

III